United Nations S/2018/69

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 January 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 26 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to the Saudi Mission's letter dated 23 January 2018, and upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that, in keeping with the goals of the Arab coalition to restore legitimacy in Yemen, namely, to improve the humanitarian situation of the Yemeni people and to maximize the benefit to the Yemeni economy and its import environment, from all of Yemen's ports, following the deposit of $2 billion in the Central Bank of Yemen by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the coalition confirms that the port of Hudaydah will remain open to receive humanitarian goods and commercial ships, including shipments of fuel and food, for 30 days, starting from 21 January 2018.

Furthermore, the coalition reiterates its call upon the United Nations to enhance the capabilities of the office of the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism in Djibouti in order to prevent the continuous smuggling of weapons and military equipment into Yemen by the Houthi militias, who use the port as a starting point for operations that threaten the safety of maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab strait.

We would appreciate it if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled **Almanzlawiy**
Deputy Permanent Representative

18-01285 (E) 300118

Please recycle

United Nations S/2018/70

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 January 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 24–26 January 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-01410 (E) 310118 010218

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (24 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation. Food with a total weight of 2.4 tons was delivered to Suran in Hama Governorate.

In total, 1,738 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,424 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 27 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,034 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, a ceasefire agreement has been signed with Tall Anbar in Aleppo Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,337.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime are continuing with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah Governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (25 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Damascus, two in Dar'a and one in Idlib.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations: 2.4 tons of food was delivered to the local population of Umm al-Amad in Aleppo Governorate; and 2.4 tons of food was delivered to the local population of Damascus.

In total, 1,740 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,428.8 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 173 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,207 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Mubarakiyah in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,338.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (26 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Homs Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Qizhil, Aleppo Governorate: 2.4 tons of food and clothes were delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,741 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,431 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 60 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,267 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,338.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/71

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the forty-seventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/60).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the concerns that it raised in its responses to previous reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions. Regrettably, the current report does not meet its goal, namely to give Member States an impartial, objective and professional briefing on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government emphasizes that the authors of the report must comply with their mandate under the aforementioned resolutions of the United Nations, all of which underscore the principle of respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the need to provide humanitarian support to all Syrians in need, without politicization or selectivity.

From 9 to 14 January 2018, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mark Lowcock, made what has been described as a positive visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government hopes that the visit will bring tangible results by maintaining dialogue, rebuilding confidence and fostering cooperation between the Syrian Government and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Such cooperation should recognize the challenges faced by the Syria State and seek to support its considerable efforts in the area of humanitarian affairs, relief and development.

The following are some of the Syrian Government's main concerns regarding the current report:

- The language of the report continues to lack the necessary professionalism, objectivity and credibility. It is highly politicized and beholden to the agendas of parties hostile to the Syrian State. Inaccurate accounts, such as references to the dropping of barrel bombs from helicopters, are presented as though they had been confirmed. The crimes of terrorist organizations are dampened with such terms as "reportedly", "reports have been received" and similar phrases.
- The Syrian Government rejects the inclusion in the report of false information and inaccurate statistics from sources that are unreliable and egregiously politicized. These include the reports from the Office of the United Nations High

Please recycle

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which are fundamentally based on slander and allegations made by members of armed terrorist groups and their families. OHCHR has wilfully ignored the horrific destruction and human and material damage caused by the operations of the so-called international coalition and its allied militias in Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr. This shows that it has lost all credibility. The Syrian Government is surprised that the authors persist in ignoring reliable Government sources and the reports of United Nations representatives, organizations and agencies operating in Syria, all of which acknowledge the efforts of the Syrian Government, its cooperation on humanitarian relief and the facilities that it provides for their work.

- The Syrian Government regrets that the Secretariat and the authors remain silent while the funding for humanitarian activities allocated to Syria has been deliberately reduced with catastrophic consequences, and while certain States have made their support contingent on political conditions that are inconsistent with the principles of humanitarian work. The resulting situation is one of the main factors preventing humanitarian access to Syrians in need, and it has brought an end to a great many projects. For instance, owing to the deliberate funding cuts, the World Food Programme has reduced the number of Syrian recipients of food parcels from 4 million to a mere 2.8 million. Over a million people in need are being denied food. International non-governmental organizations have also scaled back their activities and assistance projects in Syria owing to donor pressure.

- The recent escalation of the situation in the eastern Ghutah has taken place because the terrorist groups positioned in the area have been attacking residential areas and military checkpoints. They have launched hundreds of rockets and shells at the city of Damascus, killing dozens of people. Government forces have had to respond to those acts of aggression because they have a constitutional duty to ensure that civilians are safe and secure.

- Regrettably, the authors have persisted in using the term "besieged locations" when referring to the situation in the eastern Ghutah. At the same time, under pressure from influential States on the Security Council and beyond, they have persistently and wilfully ignored the plight of the people of Fu'ah and Kafraya, which are besieged by armed terrorist groups. The fact is that the people of the eastern Ghutah are besieged from within by an assortment of armed terrorist groups, which are using civilians as human shields. The groups have seized and monopolized humanitarian assistance, which they hand out to their supporters or sell at exorbitant prices to people in need, as also happened in the eastern neighbourhoods of Aleppo.

- It is unfortunate that the authors have ignored the plight of the abductees in the prisons of the eastern Ghutah and in other areas where terrorist groups proliferate. These include women, children and old people who were taken from their homes and places of work and subjected to the worst forms of torture. The authors fail to press for those people to be evacuated so that they can receive the medical attention they need. The Syrian Government wishes to correct a glaring mistake in the legal language used by the authors in paragraph 7 of the report: the people held in Tawbah and other prisons in the eastern Ghutah are abductees, not captives.

- The report acknowledges that the United Nations has successfully delivered humanitarian assistance to millions of people in need within Syria. The Syrian Government emphasizes that this could not have happened but for the facilities provided by the Syrian State and its institutions.

- Regrettably, the authors have persisted with their glaring legal error of referring to the armed terrorist groups in Syria as the "non-State armed opposition", as

evidenced, for example, in boxes 1 and 3 and in paragraphs 8, 23 and 29. The Syrian Government forces' operations in the Hamah countryside and in Idlib are aimed at the camps of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the terrorists and forces that fight alongside them.

- Unfortunately, the authors have once again attempted to spread false information by persistently focusing only on the humanitarian assistance convoys deployed by United Nations agencies. They ignore the convoys deployed in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other actors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross. They also ignore the humanitarian assistance provided to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries by convoys independent of the United Nations entities, not to mention the assistance delivered by international non-governmental organizations and their national partners.

- The people running OCHA have been unable to maintain the standards of transparency and provide the guarantees necessary to reassure the international community that assistance is going to the rightful beneficiaries rather than to the armed groups. In paragrapn 33, the authors unfortunately refer to the same vague ideas that appear in previous reports of the Secretariat concerning so-called partners and independent third-party companies contracted by the United Nations to verify that assistance is reaching the right storage facilities and recipients. Such ideas and references are unacceptable. They have not previously been brought up by any United Nations official with the Syrian Government, which is the primary party concerned. They also flagrantly contravene Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). The people who propagated and implemented those ideas bear full responsibility at the international level. The Syrian Government once again demands that the United Nations should supply it with the names and records of the parties that are supposed to be acting as United Nations partners. It also looks forward to the information and clarification that the Secretariat was requested to provide under Security Council resolution 2393 (2017).

- The Syrian Government once again urges the Secretariat to work to bring an end to Turkey's blatant attacks on Syria. Most recently, Turkey raided the Syrian town of Afrin, resulting in dozens of innocent victims to date. The Syrian Government once again calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility by bringing an end to this act of aggression and ensure that Turkish forces withdraw from Syrian territory.

- The Syrian Government categorically rejects the authors' continued bias in favour of the so-called international coalition and its members. The authors fail to mention the coalition's own acknowledgement that these strikes have caused hundreds of civilian deaths. The report furthermore avoids holding the coalition to account for the destruction it has inflicted on the city of Raqqah, for the massacres it has committed there and for its use of internationally proscribed weapons in Syria, as well as for other violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Syrian Government again calls for the immediate dissolution of that illegitimate coalition and an end to its crimes against Syrians.

- Notwithstanding frequent calls from the Syrian Government and members of the Security Council, are unfortunately still failing to fulfil their responsibility to give the global public a true picture of the economic and humanitarian suffering caused by the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on Syria by the United States of America, the European Union and other States. Those measures have had numerous adverse consequences, especially in the health care sector, affecting even the activities of United Nations agencies and foreign

non-governmental organizations operating in Syria, and have led to the suspension of projects vital to responding to the needs of Syrians.

- The Syrian Government reiterates that that United Nations officials working in Syria should have nothing to do with any separatist entities, illegal "local councils" or unlicensed civil associations. It rejects the authors' failure to acknowledge the serious crimes being committed by separatist militias supported by the forces of the so-called international coalition in areas where they are deployed in the North and East of Syria. Those violations are set out in the Syrian Government's response to the forty-sixth report of the Secretary-General.

- There are now 27 international non-governmental organizations authorized to work in Syria. The Syrian Government is convinced that the Syrian civil society sector has a role to play. It has therefore informed United Nations officials of a new mechanism that regulates and seeks to promote cooperation between international organizations and Syrian civil associations. The mechanism seeks to promote such cooperation. It includes all declared Syrian organizations in Syria, once the cooperation projects have been duly examined.

- The Syrian Government reaffirms its position concerning the International Criminal Court and the calls made for the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to be referred to that Court. It stresses that the jurisdiction of the Court does not apply to the situation in Syria and, moreover, that the Court has lost all credibility and has been transformed into a political tool used by certain parties to attack specific States for sordid political ends that have nothing to do with the requirements of justice. The Syrian Government also reiterates what it stated in its letter to the Secretary-General regarding the serious legal flaws in the resolution on the so-called International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (A/71/799).

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership without foreign intervention and without preconditions. We remind you that the success of the political process and any significant improvement in the humanitarian situation will depend, above all, on creating a climate conducive to a serious and non-politicized international and regional commitment to fighting terrorism. The Syrian Government also stresses that it has played a constructive role in the success of the Astana and Geneva meetings and that it will attend the Syrian national dialogue congress to be held in the Russian city of Sochi.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to prevail on the States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to refrain from so doing, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and the financing thereof, in particular resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and enforcement of those resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering unprecedented humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2018/72

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 January 2018

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 28 November 2017 on the Strategic Review of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (S/2017/1008), of 28 September 2017 on his Good Offices (S/2017/814) and of 9 January 2018 (S/2018/25) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) beyond 31 January 2018,

Echoing the Secretary-General's firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and *reaffirming* the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Welcoming the commitments set out in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders' Joint Statement of 2 April 2017 on the basis of the Joint Declaration adopted on 11 February 2014, *further welcoming* the progress in negotiations since then, including the reconvening of the Conference on Cyprus under United Nations auspices in June 2017, the participants' commitment to support the process towards a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus, and the support provided by the Secretary-General and Secretary-General's Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar,

Recalling the importance attached by the international community to all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively in negotiations to secure a settlement and *noting* that last year's Conference on Cyprus did not result in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions, *urging* the sides to renew their commitment to such a settlement, and *stressing* that the status quo is unsustainable,

Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, *calling for* renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures, and for agreement on and implementation of further steps to build trust between the communities,

Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points,

Please recycle

Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits for all Cypriots, that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, *urging* the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and *encouraging* them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any referenda,

Highlighting the importance, both political and financial, of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of all parties concerned in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to renew their commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices; *taking note* of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and *urging* all sides to avoid any action, including violations of the military status quo, which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far, or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, *noting* the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, *noting also* proposals and discussions as well as positive initiatives on demining, and *urging* rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Commending the work of the Committee on Missing Persons, *highlighting* the importance of intensifying its activities, and therefore the need to provide all information required as expressed in the press release of the Committee on Missing Persons on 28 July 2016 regarding review of archival materials, *noting* that the remains of 1,147 missing persons, from a total of 2002, have not yet been positively identified, *urging* the opening up of access to all areas expeditiously to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and *trusting* that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that the active participation and leadership of women is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, *recalling* that women play a critically important role in peace processes as recognised in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and related resolutions; and *further recalling* the importance of the active participation of youth, consistent with Resolution 2250,

Urging the sides to step up their efforts to promote intercommunal contacts and events and the active engagement of civil society, including Bi-Communal Initiatives and development projects where the two communities can work together and jointly benefit, and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Recognizing the need to regularly review all peacekeeping operations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, and *noting* the importance of transition planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations as appropriate for further adjustments to the mandate of UNFICYP, force levels and other resources and concept of operations, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General and Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP, and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and *expressing* appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to UNFICYP,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Welcomes* the progress of the leaders-led process since 11 February 2014 and the efforts of the leaders and their negotiators to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement, *notes* the outcome of the Conference on Cyprus and *urges* the sides and all involved participants to renew their political will and commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General (S/2017/814, S/2017/1008 and S/2018/25);

3. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

4. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2369 (2017), and *calls* upon the two leaders to:

(a) Put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;

(b) Intensify work with the Technical Committees with the objective of enhancing intercommunal contacts and improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;

(c) Improve the public atmosphere for negotiation to secure a settlement, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonised messages, and by refraining from rhetoric that could make a successful process more difficult to achieve; and

(d) Increase the participation of civil society in the process as appropriate;

5. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's willingness, and expresses its full support, for his Good Offices to remain available to assist the sides, should they jointly decide to re-engage in negotiations with the necessary political will, as stated in his report of 28 September 2017; and *requests* the Secretary-General to maintain transition planning in relation to a settlement, guided by progress in negotiations, and encourages the sides to engage with each other, as well as with UNFICYP and the United Nations Good Offices mission in this regard;

6. *Urges* the implementation and further development of confidence-building measures based on a shared vision for the future and joint actions, and *looks forward* to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of crossing points already agreed upon and others, and *urges* the sides to promote intercommunal contacts, exchange and cooperation thereby contributing to a conducive environment for a settlement;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective participation of civil society and women in particular at all stages of the peace process and *urges* their involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies for

sustainable peace; and *further stresses* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth;

8. *Welcomes* all efforts to accommodate the Committee on Missing Persons' exhumation requirements as well as the joint appeal for information issued by the two leaders on 28 May 2015, and *calls upon* all parties to provide more expeditious, full access to all areas, given the need to accelerate the Committee's work;

9. *Expresses* its full support for UNFICYP and *decides* to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 July 2018;

10. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the Strategic Review of UNFICYP (S/2017/1008), and *endorses* implementation of its recommendations within existing resources;

11. *Supports* the need to improve the mission's capacity for liaison and engagement with the sides across all components, including people to people contacts, to keep stability and calm, and thereby contribute effectively to conditions conducive to progress in a settlement process;

12. *Calls* on both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of UNFICYP, in consultations with UNFICYP on the demarcation of the buffer zone, and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

13. *Calls* on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

14. *Calls* on both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and *urges* both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress towards a settlement by 15 June 2018, and on implementation of this resolution by 10 July 2018 and to keep the Security Council updated on events as necessary;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNFICYP to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

17. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2018/73

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 January 2018

Original: English

France: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on the Central African Republic (CAR), in particular resolutions 2121 (2013), 2127 (2013), 2134 (2014), 2149 (2014), 2181 (2014), 2196 (2015), 2212 (2015), 2217 (2015), 2262 (2016), 2264 (2016), 2281 (2016), 2301 (2016), 2339 (2017), 2387 (2017) as well as resolution 2272 (2016), and the Statements of its President of 18 December 2014 (S/PRST/2014/28), 20 October 2015 (S/PRST/2015/17), 16 November 2016 (S/PRST/2016/17), 4 April 2017 (S/PRST/2017/5), and 13 July 2017 (S/PRST/2017/9),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the CAR, and *recalling* the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Recalling that the CAR bears the primary responsibility to protect all populations within its territory from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Expressing concern at the deterioration of the security situation, in particular in the south-eastern part and the north-western part of the CAR, due to the ongoing clashes between armed groups and other armed spoilers in their attempts to forcefully gain control of territory and resources and destabilize the country, as well as the lack of capacity of the national security forces, the limited authority of the State over all of the CAR territory, and the persistence of the root causes of the conflict,

Emphasizing that any sustainable solution to the crisis in the CAR should be CAR-owned, including the political process, and should prioritize reconciliation of the Central African people, through an inclusive process that involves men and women of all social, economic, political, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including, those displaced by the crisis,

Calling upon the CAR authorities to continue their efforts to implement transparent and inclusive measures that allow for stabilization and reconciliation in the CAR and restore the effective authority of the State over all of the territory of the CAR; to fight impunity by restoring administration of the judiciary and the criminal justice system, including the penitentiary system, throughout the country; to achieve the reform of the CAR Armed Forces (FACA) and internal security forces in order to put in place multi-ethnic, professional, and republican security services through appropriate security sector reform processes; to carry out the inclusive and effective disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) of armed groups, including children formerly associated with them and to prevent the

18-01389 (E) 300118

Please recycle

re-recruitment of the latter; and to establish a functioning public financial management in order to meet the expenses related to the functioning of the State, implement early recovery plans, and revitalize the economy,

Welcoming the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR that led to the adoption of the roadmap by the ministerial conference held in Libreville on 17 July 2017 by the CAR authorities, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) with the support of Angola, Chad, Congo and Gabon, and *reaffirming* that this Initiative and this roadmap constitute the main framework for a political solution in the CAR, as agreed by CAR authorities and under their leadership,

Encouraging the CAR authorities, in collaboration with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the European Union Training Mission in the CAR (EUTM-RCA), to provide equal opportunities for members of armed groups, whether anti-Balaka or ex-Séléka, in the process of selecting eligible demobilized members to integrate into the national security and defence forces, *welcoming* in this regard the launch of the DDRR pilot project, and *further encouraging* the CAR authorities to ensure that FACA soldiers of all prefectures enjoy equal access to the registration and simplified verification process,

Underlining the importance of rebuilding a multi-ethnic, republican and professional national army in the CAR, *recognizing* in this regard the work carried out by the EUTM-RCA, *welcoming* the support of other international and regional partners to the training of the national security and defence forces in support of the CAR authorities, and *encouraging* effective coordination with MINUSCA and EUTM-RCA,

Calling upon the CAR authorities to ensure that perpetrators of violations of applicable international law, including those committed against children and women, are excluded from the CAR security and armed forces, and *further calling for* support for the CAR government to develop a comprehensive strategy on sexual and gender-based violence to reduce overall levels of sexual violence,

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretary-General to enforce strictly his zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), noting the various measures taken by MINUSCA and Troop- and Police-contributing countries to combat SEA, which has led to a reduction in reported cases, but still *expressing grave concern* over numerous allegations of SEA reportedly committed by peacekeepers in the CAR, as well as by non-United Nations forces, *stressing* the urgent need for Troop- and Police-contributing countries and, as appropriate, MINUSCA to promptly investigate those cases in a credible and transparent manner and to hold accountable those responsible for such criminal offences or misconduct, and *further stressing* the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with resolution 2272 (2016),

Welcoming the Secretary-General's Report of 16 October 2017 (S/2017/865) submitted pursuant to resolution 2301 (2016), and *taking note of* his letter dated 10 July 2017 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/597) pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 2339 (2017),

Further welcoming also the mid-term update and the final report (S/2017/1023) of the Panel of Experts on the CAR established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013), expanded by resolution 2134 (2014) and extended pursuant to resolution 2339 (2017), and *taking note* of the Panel of Experts' recommendations,

Strongly condemning the ongoing violence and instability in the CAR, and the threats of violence, incitement to ethnic and religious hatred and violence, human

rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, in particular against children, committed notably by both ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka elements and other armed groups; the attacks and incitement to violence against United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel; the continuous cycle of provocations and reprisals by armed groups, both inside and outside Bangui and denial of humanitarian access, committed by armed elements, which continue to adversely affect the dire humanitarian situation faced by the civilian population and to impede humanitarian access to vulnerable populations,

Stressing the urgent and imperative need to end impunity in the CAR and to bring to justice perpetrators of these acts, some of which may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to which the CAR is a State party, *noting in this regard* the opening by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 24 September 2014 of an investigation following the request of the national authorities on alleged crimes committed since 2012, and *welcoming* the ongoing cooperation by the CAR authorities in this regard,

Stressing the importance of putting in place an effective national judicial system, *underlining* the need to bolster national accountability mechanisms, including through further implementation of the 7 August 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Urgent Temporary Measures, *welcoming* in this regard the progressive operationalization of the Special Criminal Court (SCC) to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed in the CAR, and *recalling* the importance of continuous support of the international community to this process pursued by the CAR authorities,

Emphasizing that those engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, threaten or impede the political stabilization and reconciliation process, target civilians and attack peacekeepers may meet criteria for designation under sanctions as stated in this resolution,

Expressing concern that illicit trafficking, trade, exploitation and smuggling of natural resources including gold, diamonds and wildlife has a negative impact in the economy and the development of the country, and that it continues to threaten the peace and stability of the CAR,

Recalling the Kimberley Process (KP) Administrative Decision on Resumption of Exports of Rough Diamonds from the CAR, its annexed Operational Framework, and the work of the KP Monitoring Team for CAR, and *recognizing* the need to strengthen the efforts of the CAR Authorities and the KP, to responsibly and progressively, through pre-established "compliant zones", reintegrate the CAR into the global diamond trade,

Noting with concern the findings of the Panel of Experts' final report that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remains active in the south-eastern part of the CAR having carried out the killing and abduction of civilians, including children and women,

Further noting with concern the ongoing transnational criminal activity in the region, *emphasizing* the risk of the situation in the CAR providing a conducive environment for further transnational criminal activities, such as those involving arms trafficking and the use of mercenaries as well as a potential breeding ground for radical networks,

Acknowledging in this respect the important contribution the Council-mandated arms embargo can make to countering the illicit transfer of arms and related materiel in the CAR and its region, and in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, DDRR and Security sector reform (SSR) processes, *recalling* its resolutions 2117 (2013), 2127 (2013), 2220 (2015), 2262 (2016) and 2339 (2017) and *expressing grave concern* at

the threat to peace and security in the CAR arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the use of such weapons against civilians affected by armed conflict,

Reiterating the importance of all Member States' full implementation of the measures set out in resolutions 2127 (2013), 2134 (2014), 2196 (2015), 2262 (2016), 2339 (2017) and this resolution, including the obligation to implement targeted sanctions against individuals and entities designated by the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) (the Committee),

Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime, including the key role that neighbouring States, as well as regional and subregional organizations, can play in this regard and encouraging efforts to further enhance cooperation and implementation of the sanctions regime in all its aspects,

Noting with concern the reports that sanctioned individuals are travelling in the region in violation of the travel ban, and *underlining* that individuals or entities who knowingly facilitate the travel of a sanctioned individual in violation of the travel ban may be determined by the Committee to have met the designation criteria for sanctions,

Further noting with concern the reports that funds, financial assets and economic resources of listed individuals and entities have still not been frozen, and underlining the obligation of Member States and CAR authorities to do so without further delays,

Welcoming efforts by the Chair of the Committee and the President of the Security Council to support and strengthen the implementation of the measures imposed pursuant to resolution 2339 (2017) through engagement with Member States, especially regional States,

Determining that the situation in the CAR continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Arms embargo

1. *Decides* that, until 31 January 2019, all Member States shall continue to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the CAR, from or through their territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical assistance, training, financial or other assistance, related to military activities or the provision, maintenance or use of any arms and related materiel, including the provision of armed mercenary personnel whether or not originating in their territories, and *decides further* that this measure shall not apply to:

(a) Supplies intended solely for the support of or use by MINUSCA and the European Union training missions deployed in the CAR, French forces under the conditions provided by paragraph 65 of resolution 2387 (2017), as well as other Members States forces providing training and assistance as notified in advance in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) below;

(b) Supplies of non-lethal equipment and provision of assistance, including operational and non-operational training to the CAR security forces, including State civilian law enforcement institutions, intended solely for support of or use in the CAR process of Security Sector Reform (SSR), in coordination with MINUSCA, and as

notified in advance to the Committee, and requests MINUSCA to report on the contribution to SSR of this exemption, as part of its regular reports to the Council;

(c) Supplies brought into the CAR by Chadian or Sudanese forces solely for their use in international patrols of the tripartite force established on 23 May 2011 in Khartoum by the CAR, Chad and Sudan, to enhance security in the common border areas, in cooperation with MINUSCA, as approved in advance by the Committee;

(d) Supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training, as approved in advance by the Committee;

(e) Protective clothing, including flak jackets and military helmets, temporarily exported to the CAR by United Nations personnel, representatives of the media and humanitarian and development workers and associated personnel, for their personal use only;

(f) Supplies of small arms and other related equipment intended solely for use in international-led patrols providing security in the Sangha River Tri-national Protected Area to defend against poaching, smuggling of ivory and arms, and other activities contrary to the national laws of the CAR or the CAR's international legal obligations, as notified in advance to the Committee;

(g) Supplies of arms and other related lethal equipment to the CAR security forces, including State civilian law enforcement institutions, intended solely for support of or use in the CAR process of SSR, as approved in advance by the Committee; or

(h) Other sales or supply of arms and related materiel, or provision of assistance or personnel, as approved in advance by the Committee;

2. *Decides* to authorize all Member States to, and that all Member States shall, upon discovery of items prohibited by paragraph 1 of this resolution, seize, register and dispose (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) items the supply, sale, transfer or export of which is prohibited by paragraph 1 of this resolution and decides further that all Member States shall cooperate in such efforts;

3. *Reiterates* its call upon the CAR authorities, with the assistance of MINUSCA and international partners, to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the CAR, and to ensure the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked, or illicitly held weapons and ammunition and *further stresses* the importance of incorporating such elements into SSR and DDRR programmes;

4. *Welcomes* in this regard the creation of the "Commission nationale de lutte contre la prolifération et la circulation illicite des armes légères et de petit calibre (COMNAT-ALPC)" and *calls on* CAR authorities to fully operationalize it;

5. *Further welcomes* the establishment of MINUSCA's arms embargo working group (AEWG), which aims to coordinate the mission's efforts on the implementation of the arms embargo and to reinforce its role in countering arms trafficking, and *encourages* the AEWG to serve as a channel for information-sharing on arms trafficking and for recommendations on the control activities to be carried out including, when appropriate, the seizure of weapons, in pursuance of MINUSCA's mandate as defined in paragraph 44 of resolution 2387 (2017);

6. *Strongly encourages* the CAR authorities to continue to increase their capacity, with the support of MINUSCA, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and other international partners, to store and manage weapons and

ammunition in their possession, including those transferred from MINUSCA stocks, according to international best practices and norms, while ensuring that the FACA and internal security forces units receiving such weapons and ammunition are fully trained and vetted;

7. *Encourages* neighbouring States, in cooperation with the CAR authorities, to take effective action to counter the illicit flow of weapons and ammunition into the CAR and to ensure the traceability of the weapons and ammunition produced on their territories as required by the Kinshasa Convention for the Control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition, parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair or assembly;

8. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular neighbouring States and Member States of the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS) and of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), to utilize the advance notification and exemption procedures pursuant to paragraph 1 of this resolution to return arms and related materiel of all types belonging to the FACA, or to implement technical assistance, training or other assistance related to military activities by the Central African national security and defence forces, and in this regard *requests* the Panel of Experts to provide the necessary assistance as per paragraph 32 (b) of this resolution;

Travel ban

9. *Decides* that, until 31 January 2019, all Member States shall continue to take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals designated by the Committee, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse its own nationals entry into its territory, and *calls upon* the CAR Government to enhance cooperation and information sharing with other States in this regard;

10. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law and applicable international legal instruments and framework documents, to require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of individuals designated by the Committee;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to report any such departures from their territories, or such attempted entry into or transit through their territories, of such individuals to the Committee, as well as sharing this information with the State of residence or nationality, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and international obligations;

12. *Urges* the CAR authorities, in their implementation of the measures set out in paragraph 9 above, to ensure that fraudulent, counterfeit, stolen, and lost passports and other travel documents, as well as invalidated diplomatic passports, are removed from circulation, in accordance with domestic laws and practices, as soon as possible, and to share information on those documents with other Member States through the INTERPOL database;

13. *Encourages* Member States to submit, where available and in accordance with their national legislation, photographs and other biometric data of individuals designated by the Committee for inclusion in INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices;

14. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 9 above shall not apply:

(a) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that such travel is justified on the grounds of humanitarian need, including religious obligation;

(b) Where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process;

(c) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that an exemption would further the objectives of peace and national reconciliation in the CAR and stability in the region;

15. *Emphasizes* that violations of the travel ban can undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, observes that individuals or entities who knowingly facilitate the travel of a listed individual in violation of the travel ban may be determined by the Committee to have met the designation criteria provided for in this resolution, and *calls upon* all parties and all Member States to cooperate with the Committee as well as the Panel of Experts on the implementation of the travel ban;

Asset freeze

16. *Decides* that all Member States shall, until 31 January 2019, continue to freeze without delay all funds, other financial assets and economic resources within their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, or by entities owned or controlled by them, and *decides further* that all Member States shall continue to ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the individuals or entities designated by the Committee;

17. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 16 above do not apply to funds, other financial assets or economic resources that have been determined by relevant Member States:

(a) To be necessary for basic expenses, including payment for foodstuffs, rent or mortgage, medicines and medical treatment, taxes, insurance premiums, and public utility charges or exclusively for payment of reasonable professional fees and reimbursement of incurred expenses associated with the provision of legal services in accordance with national laws, or fees or service charges, in accordance with national laws, for routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds, other financial assets and economic resources, after notification by the relevant State to the Committee of the intention to authorize, where appropriate, access to such funds, other financial assets or economic resources and in the absence of a negative decision by the Committee within five working days of such notification;

(b) To be necessary for extraordinary expenses, provided that such determination has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee and has been approved by the Committee; or

(c) To be the subject of a judicial, administrative or arbitral lien or judgment, in which case the funds, other financial assets and economic resources may be used to satisfy that lien or judgment provided that the lien or judgment was entered into prior to the date of the present resolution, is not for the benefit of a person or entity designated by the Committee, and has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee;

18. *Decides* that Member States may permit the addition to the accounts frozen pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 16 above of interest or other earnings due on those accounts or payments due under contracts, agreements or obligations that arose prior to the date on which those accounts became subject to the provisions of this

resolution, provided that any such interest, other earnings and payments continue to be subject to these provisions and are frozen;

19. *Decides* that the measures in paragraph 16 above shall not prevent a designated person or entity from making payment due under a contract entered into prior to the listing of such a person or entity, provided that the relevant States have determined that the payment is not directly or indirectly received by a person or entity designated pursuant to paragraph 16 above, and after notification by the relevant States to the Committee of the intention to make or receive such payments or to authorize, where appropriate, the unfreezing of funds, other financial assets or economic resources for this purpose, 10 working days prior to such authorization;

Designation criteria

20. *Decides* that the measures contained in paragraphs 9 and 16 shall apply to the individuals and entities designated by the Committee as engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, including acts that threaten or impede the stabilization and reconciliation process or that fuel violence;

21. *Further decides* in this regard that the measures contained in paragraphs 9 and 16 shall also apply to the individuals and entities designated by the Committee as:

(a) Acting in violation of the arms embargo established in paragraph 54 of resolution 2127 (2013) and extended by paragraph 1 of this resolution, or as having directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to armed groups or criminal networks in the CAR, or as having been the recipient of arms or any related materiel, or any technical advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to violent activities of armed groups or criminal networks in the CAR;

(b) Involved in planning, directing, or committing acts in the CAR that violate international human rights law or international humanitarian law, as applicable, or that constitute human rights abuses or violations, including those involving targeting of civilians, ethnic- or religious-based attacks, attacks on civilian objects, including administrative centres, courthouses, schools and hospitals, and abduction and forced displacement;

(c) Involved in planning, directing or committing acts involving sexual and gender-based violence in the CAR;

(d) Recruiting or using children in armed conflict in the CAR, in violation of applicable international law;

(e) Providing support for armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation or trade of natural resources, including diamonds, gold, wildlife as well as wildlife products in or from the CAR;

(f) Obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the CAR, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in the CAR;

(g) Involved in planning, directing, sponsoring, or conducting attacks against UN missions or international security presences, including MINUSCA, the European Union training missions and French forces deployed under the conditions provided by paragraph 65 of resolution 2387 (2017) and which support them, as well as against humanitarian personnel;

(h) Being leaders of an entity that the Committee has designated pursuant to paragraphs 36 or 37 of resolution 2134 (2014), paragraphs 11 or 12 of resolution 2196

(2015), paragraphs 12 or 13 of resolution 2262 (2016) or this resolution, or having provided support to, or acted for or on behalf of, or at the direction of, an individual or an entity that the Committee has designated pursuant to paragraphs 36 or 37 of resolution 2134 (2014), paragraphs 11 or 12 of resolution 2196 (2015), paragraphs 12 or 13 of resolution 2262 (2016), paragraphs 16 or 17 of resolution 2339 (2017) or this resolution, or an entity owned or controlled by a designated individual or entity;

22. *Condemns* all acts of incitement to violence, in particular on an ethnic or religious basis, that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR and *decides* that individuals and entities who commit such acts and then engage in or provide support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR could meet the designation criteria specified in paragraph 20 above;

23. *Welcomes* measures taken by Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to implement the Regional Initiative against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources as endorsed in the 2010 Lusaka Declaration, including promoting the use by economic actors of Due Diligence Frameworks such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, and *encourages* all States, particularly those in the region, to continue to raise awareness of the due diligence guidelines;

Sanctions Committee

24. *Decides* that the mandate of the Committee shall apply with respect to the measures imposed in paragraphs 54 and 55 of resolution 2127 (2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution 2134 (2014) extended by this resolution;

25. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding regular consultations with concerned Member States, international and regional and subregional organizations, as may be necessary, in particular neighbouring and regional States, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures renewed by this resolution, and in that regard *encourages* the Committee to consider, where and when appropriate, visits to selected countries by the Chair and/or Committee members;

26. *Requests* the Committee to identify possible cases of non-compliance with the measures pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2, 9 and 16 above and to determine the appropriate course of action on each case, and *requests* the Chair, in regular reports to the Council pursuant to paragraph 41 below, to provide progress reports on the Committee's work on this issue;

27. *Recalls* the KP's decision that the CAR may resume trade in rough diamonds from "compliant zones" established under conditions set forth by the KP, notes that the KP intends to keep the Security Council, the Committee and its Panel of Experts, and MINUSCA informed of its decisions and, requests the KP Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring to periodically update the Committee on the work of the KP CAR Monitoring Team, including any decisions on areas designated as "compliant zones" and decisions related to the trade of the stockpiles of rough diamonds held in the CAR;

28. *Calls for* enhanced vigilance from international trading centres and States in the region to support the CAR authorities' efforts to re-establish legitimate trade and benefit from its natural resources; and *commends* the CAR for taking special measures to enhance traceability of diamonds from compliant zones so that diamonds are not used for the benefit of armed groups or to destabilize the CAR;

29. *Acknowledges* the KP's progress on the issue of the diamond stockpiles, and *encourages* the KP to facilitate the resolution of the issue, in cooperation with the CAR authorities and in consultation with the Panel of Experts;

Panel of Experts

30. *Expresses* its full support for the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to paragraph 59 of resolution 2127 (2013);

31. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 28 February 2019, *expresses* its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 31 January 2019 and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to support its action;

32. *Decides* that the mandate of the Panel of Experts shall include the following tasks, to:

(a) Assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in this resolution;

(b) Gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance, including to facilitate, upon request by Member States, assistance on capacity-building;

(c) Provide to the Security Council, after discussion with the Committee, a midterm report no later than 30 July 2018, and a final report by 31 December 2018, on the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraphs 54 and 55 of resolution 2127 (2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution 2134 (2014) renewed by paragraphs 1, 2, 9 and 16 of this resolution;

(d) Submit progress updates to the Committee, especially in situations of urgency, or as the Panel deems necessary;

(e) Assist the Committee in refining and updating information on the list of individuals and entities designated by the Committee pursuant to the criteria renewed by paragraphs 20 and 21 above including through the provision of biometric information and additional information for the publicly available narrative summary of reasons for listing;

(f) Assist the Committee by providing information regarding individuals and entities that may meet the designation criteria in paragraphs 20 and 21 above, including by reporting such information to the Committee, as it becomes available, and to include in its formal written reports, the names of potential designees, appropriate identifying information, and relevant information regarding why the individual or entity may meet the designation criteria in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

(g) Collect, in cooperation with MINUSCA, and report to the Committee acts of incitement to violence, in particular on an ethnic or religious basis, that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR and identify those perpetrators;

(h) Cooperate with the KP CAR Monitoring Team to support the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the CAR and report to the Committee if the resumption of trade is destabilizing the CAR or benefiting armed groups;

33. *Calls upon* the Panel of Experts to cooperate actively with other Panels or Groups of Experts established by the Security Council, as relevant to the implementation of their mandate;

34. *Expresses* particular concern about reports of illicit trafficking networks which continue to fund and supply armed groups in the CAR, and *encourages* the Panel, in the course of carrying out its mandate, to devote special attention to the analysis of such networks;

35. *Requests* the Panel of experts to include the necessary gender expertise, in line with paragraph 6 of resolution 2242 (2015), and *encourages* the Panel to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across its investigations and reporting;

36. *Urges* the CAR, its neighbouring States and other Member States of the ICGLR to cooperate at the regional level to investigate and combat criminal networks and armed groups involved in the illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources including gold, diamonds and wildlife poaching and trafficking;

37. *Urges* all parties, and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts and the safety of its members;

38. *Further urges* all Member States and all relevant United Nations bodies to ensure unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

39. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict to continue sharing relevant information with the Committee in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1960 (2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998 (2011);

Reporting and review

40. *Calls upon* all States, particularly those in the region and those in which designated individuals and entities designated are based, to actively implement the measures contained in this resolution and to regularly report to the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraphs 54 and 55 of resolution 2127 (2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution 2134 (2014) renewed by paragraphs 1, 2, 9 and 16 of this resolution;

41. *Requests* the Committee to report orally, through its Chair, at least once per year to the Council, on the state of the overall work of the Committee, including alongside the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the CAR on the situation in the CAR as appropriate, and encourages the Chair to hold regular briefings for all interested Member States;

42. *Affirms* that it shall keep the situation in the CAR under continuous review and that it shall be prepared to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in this resolution, including the strengthening through additional measures, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of the progress achieved in the stabilization of the country and compliance with this resolution;

43. *Requests* in this regard the Secretariat to provide to the Security Council, within the next 6 months, benchmarks to assess the arms embargo measures according to the progress of the SSR, including FACA and internal security forces and their needs on the basis of option 3 of the letter of the Secretary General addressed to the President of the Security Council on 10 July 2017;

44. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/72/724–S/2018/74

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 February 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 30 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the opening of so-called customs points in the occupied regions of Georgia, dated 27 January 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Permanent Representative

18-01532 (E) 050218

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 30 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the opening of so-called customs points in the occupied regions of Georgia

27 January 2018

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the opening of customs points in the occupied regions of Georgia, namely the opening of so called customs point in Akhalgori by Russian occupation regime and creation of so called specialized customs post in Sokhumi by the Russian Federation, which are aimed at integration of occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions within the customs sphere of the Russian Federation and represents another illegal step towards factual annexation of these regions by the Russian Federation.

Alongside the opening of so called custom point in Akhalgori, bringing of meat and dairy products from the rest of Georgia into the occupied Tskhinvali region was banned, which even more aggravates the dire humanitarian situation of the local population, restricts their freedom of movement and blatantly violates their fundamental rights.

Against the background of building the barbed wire fences and other artificial barriers along the occupation line, closure of so called crossing points, and introduction of various discriminatory regulations aimed at restricting the freedom of movement, the opening of so called customs points represents a part of Moscow's policy of integration of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions into Russia's system, including the customs-economics sphere through implementation of so called treaties and isolation of these regions from the rest of Georgia.

It is worth to note that with this kind of destructive actions the Russian Federation deliberately attempts to hamper the efforts of Georgia and international society for peaceful conflict resolution and engagement between the communities divided by the occupation line.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls upon the Russian Federation to cease the provocative actions against the Georgian statehood, abide by its international commitments, de-occupy Georgia's territories and take steps aimed at peaceful conflict resolution in accordance to the principles of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia appeals to the international community to give due assessment to Russia's aggressive policy and take effective measures against the steps towards factual annexation of the territories of the sovereign state.

United Nations S/2018/75

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 30 January 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In its resolution 1646 (2005), the Council decided pursuant to its resolution 1645 (2005) that the permanent members listed in Article 23, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations would be members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission and that, in addition, the Council would annually select two of its elected members to participate in the Organizational Committee.

I therefore have the honour to inform you that, following informal consultations, the Council has selected Bolivia and Côte d'Ivoire as its two elected members that will participate in the Organizational Committee for a term of one year, ending on 31 December 2018.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
President of the Security Council

18-01423 (E) 310118

Please recycle

United Nations S/2018/76

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

I. Introduction and Mission priorities

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and requested me to report at regular intervals on the implementation of its mandate. The report covers the activities of UNMIK, and developments related thereto, from 16 October 2017 to 16 January 2018.

2. The priorities of the Mission remain to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region. In furtherance of its goals, UNMIK continues its constructive engagement with Pristina and Belgrade, all communities in Kosovo and regional and international actors. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Kosovo Force continue to perform their roles within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) continues its presence in Kosovo, in line with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 26 November 2008 (S/PRST/2008/44) and my report of 24 November 2008 (S/2008/692). The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes work closely with the Mission.

II. Key political and security developments

3. On 22 October 2017, municipal elections were held in all 38 municipalities in Kosovo. It was the second time that local elections were held throughout Kosovo since the signing of the 19 April 2013 First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations between Belgrade and Pristina. Voter turnout was relatively high, especially in the Serb-majority municipalities, reaching up to 46 per cent in some municipalities. Around 7,000 candidates competed for mayoral and municipal assembly positions across Kosovo. Many of the mayoral elections were close, resulting in run-offs on 19 November in 19 of the 38 municipalities. The Serbian List won mayoral races in 10 municipalities; the Democratic League of Kosovo won in 8; the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo won in 7; the Democratic Party of Kosovo won in 5; the Movement for Self-Determination, or Vetëvendosje, won in 3; and the Initiative for Kosovo and the New Kosovo Alliance each won in 1 municipality. Following the trend seen in the legislative elections of June 2017, a general diversification in voting emerged in the local elections, resulting in a weakening of traditional party strongholds.

18-01182 (E) 010218

Please recycle

4. The European Union deployed an electoral observation mission consisting of 109 observers, while OSCE facilitated voting procedures in the northern municipalities, in line with past practices. The European Union election observation mission, in a report issued on 24 October, noted that in Kosovo Albanian municipalities the election was genuinely competitive, while in many Kosovo Serb communities the campaign was marred by intimidation, targeting in particular non-Serbian List political entities and their candidates. The Serbian List secured all 10 Serb-majority municipalities.

5. The participation of women was low, with only 8 women running for the position of mayor, out of a total of 204 candidates. None of the 38 elected mayors are women (compared with 1 elected in 2013). The quota for the participation for women, however, contributed to ensuring that at least 30 per cent of municipal assembly members are women.

6. During the reporting period, the government and the Assembly of Kosovo took up the issue of ratification of the agreement on territorial delineation signed with Montenegro in 2015, which remained pending. On 14 November, the State Commission on Border Demarcation reported before the Committee on European Integration of the Assembly of Kosovo that it had identified irregularities in the work of the previous Commission. The President of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, speaking at an international conference in Pristina on 14 November stated, however, that the agreement on territorial delineation with Montenegro was good, clear, accurate, professionally elaborated and supported by the international community, adding that any further delays in its ratification would be detrimental for Kosovo's future. On 4 December, the government of Kosovo approved a preliminary report by the State Commission on Border Demarcation that, according to a government communiqué, assessed the documentation and findings from the past Commission's work and found many factual and scientific deficiencies and omissions. The government also voted to submit the draft law on ratification of the agreement with Montenegro to the Assembly, with caveats. At the end of the reporting period, the Assembly was still reviewing the matter.

7. Discussions on a long-standing proposal to transform the Kosovo Security Force into an armed force continued at the highest level. At an international conference in Pristina on 14 November, the President of Kosovo said that any future transformation of the Kosovo Security Force would take place only through a constitutional amendment.

8. On 22 December, 43 members of the Assembly of Kosovo from the ruling coalition, and without the participation of the Serbian List, signed a request to hold an extraordinary session of the Assembly to revoke a law adopted in August 2015 in support of the work of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office. The request, however, failed because of the lack of a quorum in the Assembly. Within 24 hours of the request, the Assembly went into its winter recess, postponing any further discussion of the matter until at least mid-January. The effort to revoke the law was strongly condemned by opposition parties and by international and regional partners of Kosovo. In a joint statement issued on 12 January 2018, the European Union Special Representative for Kosovo and the heads of European Union missions in Kosovo noted that the initiative to abrogate the law on the Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office was still pending before the Assembly of Kosovo and was of extreme concern to the European Union and its member States. They urged the sponsors of the initiative to withdraw the request, indicating that any attempt to repeal or amend the mandate of the Specialist Chambers would have an adverse effect on the relations between Kosovo and the European Union.

9. Some steps were taken towards ensuring faster and more consistent progress in fulfilling the European Reform Agenda of Kosovo. On 10 November, the government of Kosovo approved the key priorities of the European Agenda for 2018 and declared its commitment to fulfilling its duties and moving the agenda forward. On 17 November, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinaj, co-chaired the second meeting of the European Union-Kosovo Stabilization and Association Council in Brussels. Following the meeting, the Office of Prime Minister Haradinaj issued a communique, in which the firm commitment of Kosovo to deliver swiftly on key Stabilization and Association Agreement reforms was reaffirmed, with a view to continued progress on its path to joining the European Union. Subsequently, on 18 December, the Prime Minister of Kosovo attended a working dinner for prime ministers from the Western Balkans, hosted in Brussels by the High Representative of the European Union. On 31 October, Kosovo officials attended the first meeting of coordinators of the Regional Cooperation Council multi-action plan, in Brussels, to discuss the implementation of agreements reached at the Western Balkans Summit, held in Trieste, Italy, in July 2017.

10. On 5 December, however, the President of Kosovo, speaking at the headquarters of the Kosovo Security Force in Pristina, noted that an unjustified number of international missions were still functioning in Kosovo and called upon international missions to leave. He also expressed dissatisfaction with the European integration process, questioning whether Kosovo enjoyed a European perspective, and criticized the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office. Some of these concerns were echoed by other political leaders in Pristina.

III. Northern Kosovo

11. A total of 24,095 (approximately 42 per cent) registered voters from the four northern municipalities cast ballots in the municipal elections held in Kosovo on 22 October. This represents a significant increase compared with the 2013 municipal elections, in which approximately 13,000 Kosovo Serbs cast their votes amid calls for a boycott by local politicians opposing the 2013 Agreement between Belgrade and Pristina.

12. The OSCE mission in Kosovo provided technical support in the conduct of the elections in the four northern municipalities. The support included technical advice to the four municipal election commissions and technical support to polling station committees on the day of the election, including the deployment of more than 220 OSCE observers to the northern municipalities.

13. The Serbian List won all four northern municipalities in the first round, obtaining a large majority of seats in the municipal assemblies and all four mayoral positions. The four northern municipal assemblies held their respective constitutive sessions on 14 December, as convened by the newly elected mayors.

14. The overall security situation in northern Kosovo remained fragile, with a number of incidents reported. On 16 January, in an incident with potential implications far beyond northern Kosovo, a prominent Kosovo Serb politician and leader of the Civic Initiative "Serbia, Democracy, Justice", Oliver Ivanovic, was shot dead by unidentified assailants outside his party's offices in North Mitrovica. Mr. Ivanovic had recently run, unsuccessfully, for mayor of North Mitrovica in the October elections. My Special Representative, Zahir Tanin, condemned the murder of Mr. Ivanovic, calling for swift and decisive work by investigative authorities as well as for calm on all sides. Political leaders in Belgrade and Pristina, as well as the European Union, OSCE and some Member States also issued statements condemning

the murder. The President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, convened a special session of the National Security Council, at which he described the murder of Mr. Ivanović as a terrorist attack against Serbs in Kosovo, and demanded that Serbia be directly involved in the investigation of the murder. The Prime Minister of Kosovo also called for an emergency session of the Kosovo Security Council. Despite some initial rhetorically charged statements from both sides, the authorities from Belgrade and Pristina subsequently appeared ready to agree upon practical modes of cooperation to help solve the crime as soon as possible.

15. In an earlier incident, on 22 October, three persons of Serbian nationality were arrested at Gate 1 of the Administrative Boundary Line for possession of explosive devices found by Kosovo police officers in a bus transporting Kosovo Serb voters from Serbia. The suspects were released on bail at the end of November. On 11 November, a group of young Kosovo Serbs were allegedly assaulted by unidentified assailants in Bosniak Mahalla, an ethnically mixed neighbourhood in North Mitrovica. In a separate incident on 26 November, Kosovo police officers reported that unknown perpetrators threw explosive devices, including hand grenades and Molotov cocktails, in the yards of two Kosovo Serb members of the Kosovo Security Force in different locations in Zubin Potok, causing material damage.

IV. Normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina

16. During the final months of 2017, there was little formal or substantive interaction between Belgrade and Pristina. However, on 12 January 2018, the Prime Minister of Kosovo appointed his Chief of Staff, Avni Arifi, as the new coordinator to lead the Kosovo delegation to the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina at the technical level.

17. On 15 January, the spokesperson of the High Representative of the European Union announced that a new round of the technical-level dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina would be held in Brussels from 16 to 18 January. She also indicated that the technical negotiation teams from Belgrade and Pristina, led by the Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia, Marko Đurić, and by Avni Arifi, respectively, had confirmed their participation in the dialogue. However, following the murder of Mr. Ivanović in the early morning of 16 January, Marko Đurić announced that his delegation had left the technical dialogue session to return to Serbia.

18. In Belgrade, progress was made in the implementation of the internal dialogue on the Kosovo issue launched by the President of Serbia. Further to a decision adopted by the Government of Serbia on 16 October, a working group was established, led by Marko Đurić, and tasked with providing logistical support to and coordinating the internal dialogue. Several sessions of the internal dialogue were held during the reporting period, involving representatives from civil society, academia and the political, social, economic and cultural spheres.

19. Some concrete steps were taken towards further implementation of the agreements reached within the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. On 24 October, 40 judges and 13 prosecutors, mainly Kosovo Serbs, were sworn into the Kosovo judiciary, marking the full implementation of an agreement on the issue of the judiciary in northern Kosovo reached by the two sides on 10 February 2015.

20. In addition, on 19 December, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo adopted a decision allowing residents of Kosovo holding a driving licence issued by the Government of Serbia before 14 September 2016, to obtain a Kosovo driving licence

without the need to pass a driving test. The decision follows an agreement reached on 14 September 2016 in the framework of the 2011 agreement on freedom of movement signed between Belgrade and Pristina.

21. There was no progress towards the establishment of the community/association of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo, agreed to in the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations. No indications were provided about when and how steps towards the establishment of the community/association might be taken.

V. Returns, reconciliation and cultural heritage and community relations

22. During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recorded 95 voluntary returns to Kosovo by members of non-majority communities. UNHCR estimates that, at the end of December 2017, the total number of internally displaced persons living in Kosovo stood at 16,417 (7,595 female and 8,822 male). UNHCR records that, in 2017, 498 persons voluntarily returned to Kosovo, the lowest number of returns since 2000 in any comparable period. Twenty individuals sought asylum in Kosovo during the reporting period, bringing the total to 143 for 2017.

23. On 16 October, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo awarded 506 scholarships to secondary school and university students from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities across Kosovo, in order to promote school and university attendance by members of those communities. Several municipalities also began to put in place measures to address the high dropout rates among high school students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

24. On 25 November, OSCE, in cooperation with UNHCR and the Ministry for Communities and Return of Kosovo, organized a forum in Montenegro within the framework of the Skopje Process, a joint OSCE-UNHCR regional initiative launched in November 2014 in order to find durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo. At the forum, representatives from OSCE and UNHCR met with counterparts from Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina and Skopje to review progress in the implementation of agreements reached in order to tackle obstacles to the displacement from Kosovo.

25. UNMIK continued to monitor developments related to the promotion and protection of religious and cultural heritage. On 29 November, the Assembly of Kosovo passed the draft law on freedom of religion, which aims to regulate the legal status of religious communities and incorporates a number of key provisions related to the status and rights of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo. The law will be sent to parliamentary committees for review prior to proceeding to a second reading in the Assembly, scheduled for the first half of 2018.

26. On 1 December 2017, the government of Kosovo allocated €285,484 to the Serbian Orthodox Church for rent payments owed by the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency, but relations between the Kosovo authorities and the Serbian Orthodox Church remained strained. Non-payment had been a source of tension between the Kosovo authorities and the Serbian Orthodox Church since 2014, when rent payments ceased. This was largely as a result of continued lack of progress in implementing the May 2016 ruling of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo in favour of the Visoki Dečani Monastery in a case of disputed land ownership, and to a dispute over the land and the unfinished building of the Christ the Saviour church located within the campus of the University of Pristina. During the reporting period, no meetings were held by the

Implementation and Monitoring Council, a special body established to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Law on Special Protective Zones and comprising representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning; the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport; the European Union; OSCE; and the Serbian Orthodox Church.

27. Damage to, and illegal demolition of, historical buildings located within the protected area of the Prizren historic centre continued, with two cases recorded during the reporting period. On 16 October, damage was caused to the Kosovo Red Cross office building, and, on 18 December, the Myftiu House, built in 1859 and listed as a cultural heritage site, was demolished without the permission of the authorities.

VI. Rule of law and human rights

28. On 24 October, in line with the agreements reached within the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, 149 judicial support staff from non-majority communities signed their employment contracts. Of these, 118 will be assigned to justice institutions in northern Kosovo. On 31 October, the Kosovo Judicial Council appointed a Kosovo Serb judge and the former President of the Serbian-run Higher Court in Mitrovica as the new President of the Basic Court of Mitrovica. On 1 November, the new Basic Prosecution Office of Mitrovica, located in North Mitrovica, became operational. However, judicial officials highlighted a number of outstanding challenges to integration, including a considerable backlog of cases, a lack of interpreters, non-existent, incomplete or inaccurate translations of laws and legal documents into Serbian and inadequate training on the applicable laws in Kosovo.

29. On 17 November, the Basic Court of Pristina found four supporters of the opposition party Vetëvendosje guilty of terrorism-related offences and sentenced them to 21 years' imprisonment. According to the indictment, the four Vetëvendosje activists acted as an organized group and attacked the Kosovo Assembly building with an explosive device on 4 August 2016. In a separate development, on 24 November Kosovo police officers arrested four Vetëvendosje Assembly members, including its founder, Albin Kurti, after they failed to appear for their trial on charges of releasing tear gas in the Assembly of Kosovo in October 2015. Subsequently, on 3 January 2018, the Basic Court of Pristina found the four Vetëvendosje Assembly members guilty and gave each of them suspended sentences, meaning that they will not serve time in jail but will face a two-year probation period.

30. On 24 November, the Basic Court of Pristina, presided over by a EULEX judge, acquitted the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Fatmir Limaj, and his co-defendants of organized crime, abuse of an official position of authority and accepting bribes. The prosecution alleged that Mr. Limaj, in his former capacity as Minister of Transport, Post and Telecommunications, manipulated tender procedures, gave and received bribes and tampered with evidence in relation to three tenders published by the Ministry between 2008 and 2010.

31. On 20 December, a trial session was held at the Basic Court of Pristina for the nine individuals accused of planning attacks at a football match in Albania against the visiting Israeli team and its fans in November 2016. Two of the defendants pleaded guilty.

32. On 29 December, the President of Kosovo pardoned three former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army convicted of killing a family near Gllogoc/Glogovac in August 2001. The three pardoned individuals had been sentenced to 30 years in jail. A joint statement issued on 4 January by the embassies of France, Germany, Italy, the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America in Pristina expressed deep concern about the pardons.

33. In a welcome development, on 15 November the Prime Minister of Kosovo appointed Negovan Mavric as Deputy Chair of the Commission on Missing Persons of the government of Kosovo. The appointment of a member of a non-majority community to the Commission, which had been a long-awaited development, is envisaged under the Law on Missing Persons, adopted on 28 August 2011.

34. Also on 15 November 2017, the government of Kosovo announced the establishment of the secretariat of the government Commission on Recognition and Verification of the Status of Victims of Sexual Violence, and the decision to allocate a monthly pension of €230 for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The establishment of the secretariat will help make the government Commission fully operational. While some civil society actors had previously advocated for a higher pension amount, the budget allocation is regarded as a historic move forward for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Notwithstanding this positive development, lack of inclusiveness of the Kosovo Serb and other communities in the process and the limited progress in ensuring access to justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence are of significant concern.

35. On 23 November, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment, Nils Melzer, concluded his two-day visit to Kosovo. Prior to his arrival, from 13 to 20 November, he conducted a field visit to Serbia. In a public statement issued after his visit, he encouraged the authorities in Belgrade and Pristina to further strengthen their ongoing efforts to provide medical and psychological support and rehabilitation to all victims of torture and other ill-treatment.

36. Following a visit to Kosovo from 14 to 16 November 2016, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe published its fourth opinion on Kosovo on 2 January 2018. The opinion included comments by UNMIK, in accordance with the agreement between UNMIK and the Council of Europe on technical arrangements related to the Framework Convention. In the opinion, it was noted that while the legal framework on equality had improved, and the independence of the Office of the Ombudsperson Institution had been strengthened, the legal framework for the protection of minorities needed to be better implemented.

37. On 13 December, the President of Kosovo officially launched the preparatory team for the establishment of the truth and reconciliation commission, in the presence of ambassadors, international organizations and representatives of civil society. The preparatory team will review the challenges faced in establishing the commission and develop a road map to support the implementation of its mandate. The preparatory team has one year to establish the commission. Despite concerns expressed by the international and diplomatic community with regard to the mandate of the Commission, the President of Kosovo urged international partners to support the process.

VII. Women and peace and security

38. The Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe, composed of women from throughout the region, met in Pristina on 8 and 9 December to discuss the political and security situation in the region and to identify ways to enhance the role of women in peacebuilding and in stability initiatives at the regional and municipal levels.

39. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) continued to support survivors of conflict-related sexual violence through a project on supporting women survivors of sexual violence, implemented by the Kosovo Women's Network. In total, 177 women survivors received psychosocial support and microgrants through the project, which ended in December 2017. UN-Women also supported case-based mentoring for local war crime prosecutors and investigators.

40. On 11 December, the non-governmental organizations Women's Rights, in North Mitrovica, and Mundësia, in South Mitrovica, held their first dialogue session, under the auspices of Mitrovica women's trust building, a confidence-building measure supported by UNMIK. At the event, panellists emphasized the central role of women in supporting trust building in Mitrovica and the need to introduce participation quotas for women in institutions and decision-making bodies.

41. The annual international campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence took place throughout Kosovo from 25 November to 10 December. Increased partnerships and joint actions between international, governmental and civil society actors forged during the campaign contributed to greater public awareness about the drivers and consequences of violence against women and girls. As part of the campaign, the dance production One Day was performed in four cities throughout Kosovo, drawing over 600 spectators. The performance brought to life real stories of 30 Kosovo women relating to sexual violence, property rights and patriarchal norms. Also as part of the campaign, on 7 December, the Council of Europe and UNMIK, in cooperation with the European Union Office in Kosovo and OSCE, organized a living library event where Kosovars recounted their personal experiences facing gender stereotypes and obstacles to gender equality. The event helped to increase awareness of the importance of gender equality and of changing social and cultural norms in order to prevent gender-based violence.

VIII. Partnerships and cooperation

42. During the reporting period, UNMIK launched 12 confidence-building measures to promote inter-ethnic cooperation in various parts of Kosovo, working in close cooperation with local partners. Those measures included projects to support multi-ethnic women's groups in the area of income generation, to foster community integration through sports and to promote multi-ethnic cultural activities. UNMIK also began the implementation of a number of small-scale projects in the areas of human rights, rule of law and trust building, in close cooperation with United Nations Kosovo team partners.

43. On 21 December, the Missing Persons Resource Centre in Pristina, with support from UNMIK, organized a round table in Pristina to discuss the implementation of the conclusions of the June 2017 Geneva round table on missing persons and of the recommendations of the 2015 report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Pristina round table brought together the Belgrade and Pristina delegations at the Working Group on Missing Persons, members of the Commissions on Missing Persons of the government of Kosovo and the Government of Serbia as well as representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Commission on Missing Persons, EULEX, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNMIK.

44. UNMIK continued its efforts to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security. From 1 to 8 December 2017, participants from the June 2017 youth assembly in Kosovo worked together with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport of Kosovo on the drafting of the youth strategy

and youth action plan for 2018–2022. On 5 December, the multi-ethnic youth art exhibition entitled "Breaking borders through art" was held in Gračanica/Graçanicë, with support from UNMIK. Twenty young artists from diverse communities across Kosovo participated in the event.

45. At the 23 November meeting of the Central European Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee (CEFTA), the Kosovo delegation was unsuccessful in its call for the adoption of an amendment to the rules of procedure that exclude UNMIK from CEFTA meetings. The Kosovo delegation asked for the amendment for full compliance with the 2012 Arrangements on Regional Representation and Cooperation agreed between Belgrade and Pristina within the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. The participation of UNMIK in CEFTA meetings continued to the extent required by CEFTA parties to ensure the Agreement's functionality. Kosovo is the 2018 CEFTA Chair in Office.

46. UNMIK continued to provide document certification services. A total of 741 documents were processed, including 441 relating to pensions and 300 to civil status, such as high school documents, university diplomas and marriage, birth and death certificates. UNMIK also continued to facilitate communication between the Kosovo authorities and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). During the reporting period, UNMIK processed the issuance of 30 international wanted notices. On 1 December, INTERPOL removed from its database red notices for 18 residents of Kosovo, including Prime Minister Haradinaj, who are wanted by Serbia for allegedly committing war crimes in Kosovo.

IX. Observations

47. I welcome the peaceful conduct of free and fair municipal elections throughout Kosovo. The United Nations will continue to be a steadfast partner in advancing the interests of all communities throughout Kosovo. In addition, in the period ahead, the Mission will continue its efforts to promote intercommunal trust building in Kosovo, through the implementation of various discussion forums and local-level initiatives.

48. The murder in broad daylight of Oliver Ivanović, head of the Civic Initiative "Serbia, Democracy, Justice", caused shock and outrage in Kosovo and the broader region and the international community. The swift identification of those responsible and their appearance before justice are essential for maintaining the momentum towards lasting peace. I appreciated the restraint shown by political leaders in the aftermath of this heinous crime as well as the commitment demonstrated by Belgrade and Pristina to cooperate and avoid a fuelling of political tensions.

49. UNMIK and the entire United Nations family continue to support the efforts of the European Union to advance peace, progress and stability in Kosovo. The steps towards full integration of the Kosovo judiciary, according to the terms agreed during the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, as well as the steps taken towards Kosovo having a successful term as Chair in Office of CEFTA, are indicators of real progress. I call upon leaders in Belgrade and Pristina to continue to advance their mutual engagement during 2018, including towards the full implementation of the agreements reached within the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue.

50. In this light, I have observed with concern some recent setbacks in key areas, primarily in the impartial application of the rule of law. The establishment of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office has been a key step demonstrating the sincere intent of Kosovo to uphold the rule of law. This major achievement was the result of close collaboration between Kosovo and the

international community. The recent attempt by certain members of the Assembly of Kosovo to repeal the law on the Specialist Chambers and to undermine the credibility of the institution is deeply disappointing. I strongly urge the political leaders of Kosovo to continue to demonstrate their full commitment to justice and the rule of law.

51. I reiterate my own call on Member States to support the trust fund which was established in follow-up to the recommendations of the UNMIK Human Rights Advisory Panel. More than ever, it is important for Member States to support this initiative.

52. I am particularly grateful to my Special Representative, Zahir Tanin, and to the Mission at large for their continued engagement with key leaders and stakeholders in a coordinated effort to build greater trust among communities, and to promote progress and long-term stability in Kosovo and the region. The capacities of UNMIK remain at the service of all partners contributing to those objectives.

53. I conclude by reiterating my gratitude to the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on the ground for their valuable collaboration with UNMIK, and to longstanding partners of the United Nations in Kosovo, including the Kosovo Force, the European Union and OSCE.

Annex I

Report of the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Secretary-General on the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo from 16 October 2017 to 16 January 2018

1. Summary

On 22 December 2017, the governing coalition attempted to organize an extraordinary plenary session in the Assembly to abrogate the law on the Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office. This failed since the Assembly could not get a quorum in the Presidency of the Assembly. This attempt was widely condemned by the European Union Special Representative and Head of the European Union Office and the heads of European Union missions, as well as the international partners of the European Union.

In the context of the European Union-facilitated dialogue, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) made a significant contribution to the final stage of judicial integration. By supporting the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council in complying with the obligations stemming from the Justice Agreement, the Mission had a positive impact on the judiciary and the stabilization process. EULEX further assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs in drafting administrative instructions related to the implementation of the agreement on freedom of movement.

The Mission continued to monitor the adjudication of sensitive high-profile criminal cases already handed over to Kosovo counterparts. As a general trend, the Mission observed an increased reluctance on the part of the Kosovo judiciary to start or move ahead with those cases.

2. Activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

2.1. Executive

Organized crime and corruption

On 2 November, a panel of EULEX judges at the Basic Court of Mitrovica announced its verdict in a case against two defendants charged with abuse of official position or authority and fraud while in office. The defendants were acquitted of all charges.

On 14 November, a panel of two local judges and one EULEX judge at the Court of Appeals granted the appeal by one defendant and sent the case back for retrial. This was a majority decision, with a dissenting opinion by the EULEX judge included in the written ruling. Previously, on 6 October 2016, the defendant had been sentenced by the Basic Court of Ferizaj/Uroševac to seven years of imprisonment for abuse of official position, accepting bribes, trading in influence, providing assistance to perpetrators after the commission of the offence and failure to report criminal offences.

On 24 November 2017, a panel of one local judge and two EULEX judges at the Basic Court of Pristina announced its verdict in the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications case related to, inter alia, organized crime, abuse of official position or authority, and accepting and giving bribes. All five defendants were acquitted of all charges.

Other serious crimes

On 19 October, a panel of one local judge and two EULEX judges at the Court of Appeals pronounced its judgment in the case against one defendant. The panel acquitted the defendant of the charge of extortion and sent the case regarding the charge of incitement to commit aggravated murder to the Basic Court of Pristina for retrial. The defendant had been sentenced by the Basic Court of Pristina to 37 years of imprisonment on both charges.

Capacity-building

EULEX provided training on dark Internet markets and organized crime, aimed at promoting the capacities of Kosovo prosecutors to investigate and prosecute organized crime and terrorism. EULEX also provided training to enhance the capacities of legal officers in the Kosovo prosecutorial system to take part in legal drafting, as delegated by prosecutors. Furthermore, EULEX, in cooperation with the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office, held a two-day training session for local prosecutors and Kosovo police officers to raise their awareness regarding evidence collected from Facebook and other online social media platforms.

Justice integration

On 24 October, 40 Kosovo Serb judges and 13 Kosovo Serb prosecutors were appointed by decree of the President of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi. This appointment will allow them to work as judges and prosecutors at all levels within the Kosovo judiciary. On the same day, around 140 support staff signed employment contracts. Subsequently, the new Kosovo Serb President of the Basic Court of Mitrovica and the Kosovo Serb Head of the Court of Appeals in Mitrovica were selected and nominated. EULEX provided support and assistance in making this important step in a long and difficult process, opening a new chapter in Kosovo's judicial system.

Institute of Forensic Medicine

EULEX forensic experts conducted site assessments in Podujevë/Podujevo, Kaçanik/Kačanik, Prizren and Rahovec/Orahovac. In addition, exhumations were carried out in Suvi Do/Suhodoll (Mitrovica) and Gjakovë/Đakovica. Four bodies were found and identified. A total of 6 individual and 24 sets of re-associated human remains were handed over to families. Progress continued to be made in reducing the backlog of autopsy and clinical examination reports. Two local doctors continued with the online training in forensic anthropology, provided by the University of Leicester.

Property rights

The Property Agency Appeals Panel of Kosovo adjudicated 35 cases, with 210 pending (33 of which are being translated). The Special Chamber of the Supreme Court for privatization matters rendered 343 decisions in first-instance trial panel cases and finalized 127 cases at the Appeals Panel level. As at 31 December, the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court had 21,016 cases pending.

2.2. Strengthening

Case monitoring

EULEX noted that a high percentage of scheduled court hearings — around 50 per cent over the last months — end up as "unproductive" hearings, that is, hearings in which nothing substantial occurred and which are often adjourned based on procedural grounds. EULEX raised this issue with the Chief State Prosecutor and the Chairs of both the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

EULEX agreed to draft jointly, but with the local institutions in the lead, specific performance criteria and an inspection protocol in order to identify the reasons for the high percentage of unproductive hearings and produce a set of recommendations.

There is also a trend whereby some court cases have to restart from the beginning after the appointed judge has been reassigned. This has a negative impact on effective court proceedings and fair trial procedures.

In monitoring the selection process for supervisory judges of court branches, EULEX noted that not only the candidates, but also the evaluation committee chairs and members were well prepared. The latest interviews indicated a step forward compared with the previous interviews for court presidents. Hence, it can be concluded that not only have members of the Kosovo Judicial Council learned from previous experience, but also that the court presidents who serve on the evaluation committees have a real interest in selecting the best candidates. The selection procedures for Presidents of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals have also been also completed, and EULEX has observed that there is already an improvement in the performance of judges at the Court of Appeals.

Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils

The Kosovo Judicial Council made progress in the drafting and adoption of important regulations. On 22 November, the Kosovo Judicial Council adopted the regulation on the training of judges and the regulation on the organization and functioning of the assembly of presidents of courts and supervisory judges. The Kosovo Judicial Council also selected the President and Deputy President of the Basic Court of Mitrovica, in compliance with the applicable legislation. EULEX observed that the interviews by the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council of 50 candidates for 18 vacant positions of State Prosecutors were held in a professional manner, treating candidates fairly and equally. In the end, 21 candidates were selected who will be proposed to the President of Kosovo for appointment as State Prosecutors.

The response by civil society to nominate candidates for the position on the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council reserved for a member of civil society was disappointing, especially since civil society has always claimed to be interested in the functioning of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

Kosovo Correctional Service

On 18 November, 130 prisoners in Dubrava Correctional Centre Block 6 started to boycott work, joined by 157 prisoners from Block 3 two days later. This marked the second boycott of work by prisoners, protesting the removal of their privilege to receive food parcels and the reduction of leave days outside prison, in line with the new Law on the Execution of Penal Sanctions. On 11 December, all prisoners at the Dubrava Correctional Centre ended their boycott. EULEX closely monitored the boycott and provided recommendations to the working group of the Kosovo Correctional Service on amendments to the Law on the Execution of Penal Sanctions as well as to the Dubrava Correctional Centre on its processing of prisoners' leave and privileges.

On 29 December, to the concern of EULEX, the President of Kosovo signed a decree to pardon three high-profile inmates who were jailed for murdering five members of the Hajra family in a vehicle ambush in 2001. Only one young daughter survived the attack. It should be noted that the prison inmates enjoyed preferential treatment all along and were notoriously known for misconduct. The inmates were serving sentences ranging from 11 to 30 years.

Kosovo police

Regarding the 19 November run-off of the municipal elections in Kosovo, EULEX closely monitored the preparation and response of the Kosovo police and concluded that it performed well, followed all appropriate rules and procedures and aptly handled cases of election violation.

On 13 December, 16 vacancies within the Special Operations Unit Pristina-Mitrovica were opened to police officers belonging to minority groups within the organization. EULEX had suggested this option to Kosovo police senior commanders for consideration, highlighting its potential value.

Police Inspectorate of Kosovo

Of the 23 new positions in the Kosovo Police Inspectorate, 6 administrative positions were filled in September. With regard to the selection of the remaining 17 investigator and inspector positions, on 6 November the Minister of Internal Affairs suspended the signing of contracts after numerous complaints by candidates, and initiated an internal audit by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate. The findings of the audit are currently being discussed. EULEX has recommended re-advertising the positions.

On 21 November, a new Integrated Border Management National Coordinator and Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs was designated, but his appointment is still pending. There has thus been no progress in the implementation of the integrated border management action plan or the development of the Centre for Border Management.

European Union-facilitated dialogue

With regard to the European Union-facilitated dialogue, in particular the implementation of the integrated border management technical protocol, the bridge at the common crossing point at Merdare was demolished on 5 November, removing the last obstacle to the construction of the new common crossing point. In addition, the construction of the common crossing Point at Mutivodë/Mutivode is ongoing with an expected construction period of 12 months. No progress has been made with regard to establishing the three common crossing points to be hosted by Belgrade.

There has been no progress in the implementation of the licence plate sticker regime, the registration of vehicles or the integration of 39 municipal civil status officers in the northern municipalities.

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Kosovo signed a decision to recognize driving licences issued by parallel structures and to allow for their replacement with Kosovo driving licences on 15 December. This is an important step forward in the implementation of the provisions stipulated in the agreement on freedom of movement. Moreover, the implementation of the administrative instruction on the criteria of citizenship has slowly started. Notwithstanding further clarification provided by the Civil Registration Agency and by UNHCR, it is being implemented differently by the various civil status offices, causing obstacles for applicants and resulting in unequal treatment. EULEX is closely monitoring the situation and liaising with the Civil Registration Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, OSCE and UNMIK on the issue.

3. Other key issues

Nothing significant to report.

Annex II

Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office

On 24 October, the President of the Specialist Chambers, following consultations with the judges of the Specialist Chambers, approved the directive on counsel, leading to its subsequent adoption by the Registrar of the Specialist Chambers on 6 November. The directive sets out the eligibility requirements for counsel to practice before the Specialist Chambers and the rules for assignment and appointment of counsel to suspects and accused, as well as to victims. In conjunction with the adoption of the directive on counsel, the application process for counsel for the list of Specialist Defence Counsel and of Victims' Counsel of the Specialist Chambers was opened on 6 November. The Specialist Chambers began to receive applications immediately and the application process is ongoing. Applications are available in all three official languages of the court (Albanian, English and Serbian), with the application form and guidelines posted online.

The Registry of the Specialist Chambers continues to engage in close collaboration with the host State in order to facilitate the work of the Specialist Chambers, including in relation to the renovation of the future court premises in The Hague. On 1 November, the Registrar met with representatives at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, including the Ambassador for International Organizations. On 2 November, the Registrar met with the Director of Legal and Operational Affairs at the Ministry of Security and Justice. On 9 November, the Deputy Registrar attended the meeting of the steering committee for the renovation of the future court premises.

From 22 to 25 November, the President of the Specialist Chambers, joined by the Registrar, undertook her first official visit to Kosovo. Meetings were held with the Kosovo Minister of Justice, the Head of the Kosovo Bar Association and the Ombudsperson, as well as representatives of international organizations, European Union member States and donor countries. The President and the Registrar provided updates on developments related to the Specialist Chambers in 2017 and the President emphasized the need to ensure fair, independent, expeditious, safe and transparent proceedings before the Specialist Chambers.

On 23 November, as part of the Specialist Chambers' ongoing communication and outreach activities, and integral to the first official visit to Kosovo by the President of the Chambers, the President and Registrar held an information session for Kosovo civil society in Pristina, providing information on the developments and activities of the Specialist Chambers. The event was well attended and included representatives from the Kosovo Serb community. It attracted significant media coverage, with the entire session broadcast live on the primary Kosovo television station. At this event, the President of the Specialist Chambers announced a pledge by the Government of Switzerland for funding outreach activities, which will support direct communication with relevant audiences in Kosovo and the region. During and since her visit to Kosovo, the President has conducted numerous media interviews, in Kosovo, throughout the region and in The Hague.

On 9 December, as part of the Specialist Chambers' ongoing communication and outreach activities, the Registrar presented the work of the Specialist Chambers, at the annual conference of the Association of Defence Counsel Practicing before the International Courts and Tribunals. The Registry of the Specialist Chambers has also produced factsheets concerning defence at the Specialist Chambers as well as victims' participation before the Specialist Chambers, and has continued to share such materials and guidance directly with the Kosovo Bar Association.

On 19 December, the President, Registrar and Specialist Prosecutor briefed European Union member States and ambassadors from contributing States in The Hague on the current activities of the Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, and the three principals continued to engage with diplomatic representatives in The Hague on potential future cooperation in the areas of witness protection and the enforcement of sentences.

The Specialist Prosecutor's Office is continuing its investigation into the allegations contained in the January 2011 report by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe entitled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo", in accordance with its mandate set out in the special law adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo in August 2015. Irrespective of attempts to revoke or amend the special law, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office remains focused on discharging its responsibilities. Among other things, the special law gives the Specialist Prosecutor the authority to call upon Kosovo institutions to assist him. When it has been in the interest of the investigation, assistance has been requested and that assistance has been provided thus far. The Specialist Prosecutor will continue to seek assistance from any person and any institution, domestic or international, to advance the investigation and to ensure that it is done objectively, professionally, impartially, thoroughly and well. Assistance from authorities in Belgrade and Pristina, as well as from the European Union and the wider international community, is essential. The Specialist Prosecutor's Office requires the continued engagement and full support of the international community and individual States in all its activities. The Specialist Prosecutor's Office is committed to fulfilling its mandate as efficiently and in as short a time as possible without compromising the quality or credibility of its work.

Annex III

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 15 January 2018)

Country	Number
Austria	1
Bulgaria	1
Finland	1
Germany	2
Hungary	2
Russian Federation	2
Turkey	1
Total	**10**

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 15 January 2018)

Country	Number
Czechia	2
Poland	2
Republic of Moldova	1
Romania	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	1
Total	**8**

Map No. 4138 Rev. 12 UNITED NATIONS
October 2017 Cartography

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (former Cartographic Section)

United Nations A/72/725–S/2018/77

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 February 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda items 19, 35 and 40

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Sustainable development

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 30 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the speech given by President Serzh Sargsyan of the Republic of Armenia to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 24 January 2018 in Strasbourg, France.

In your statement of 16 October 2017, you encouraged the sides to build on the positive momentum created by the summit held earlier the same day in Geneva between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia to reach a peaceful negotiated settlement of the conflict between the two countries.

However, this speech, full of the standard set of misinterpretations and falsifications, delivered immediately after the meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan on 18 January 2018 in Krakow, Poland, and just few days before the next visit of the Co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the region, demonstrated the unwillingness of the Government of Armenia to comply with the generally accepted norms and principles of international law and engage in good faith in ongoing efforts towards the earliest resolution of the conflict.

By resorting to fake historical narratives and fallacious legalistic arguments, Armenia has once again attempted to mislead the international community in order to conceal its policy of aggression and atrocious crimes against Azerbaijan and its people.

Proceeding from the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict and their implications for regional peace and security and the conflict settlement process, I deem it important to make the following clarifications.

The allegation that the Nagorno-Karabakh region was annexed to Azerbaijan as a result of Stalin's decision is nothing other than a stark example of the blatant

18-01537 (E) 070218

Please recycle

falsifications frequently resorted to by the Armenian side. The region has always been and will remain an inalienable part of Azerbaijan. The history, which Armenia so desperately tries to manipulate to serve its expansionist aspirations, is definitely not on its side.

It is well known that the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan is part of the geographical area called "Garabagh". The name of that part of the country consists of two Azerbaijani words, *qara* (black) and *bağ* (garden), while "Nagorno-Karabakh" is a Russian translation of the original name in the Azerbaijani language — Dağlıq Qarabağ — which means "mountainous Garabagh".

In his Strasbourg speech, the President of Armenia named the region differently neither more nor less than 25 times. However, such confusing attempts by Armenia to alter the geographical name of a part of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory are not only preposterous but null and void ab initio. Their invalidity stems from a clear violation of international law, the Constitution and the legislation of Azerbaijan and the principles of and procedures for the international standardization of geographical names established within the United Nations.

Further to historical aspects, the transfer of the Armenians to the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the broader South Caucasus as part of the implementation of the tsarist colonial policy aimed at altering the demographic and territorial structure that existed at the time started in the nineteenth century. Suffice it to refer to a simple example. In 1978, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of their settlement in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the Armenians erected the "Maraga-150" monument there. However, in 1988, immediately after Armenia overtly laid claim to that territory of Azerbaijan, the monument was destroyed. It is not difficult to guess who did this and why.

Imposed demographic changes have laid the basis for long-term instability, tensions and conflicts in the region that continue to date and have been accompanied by massacres and forcible deportations of the Azerbaijani population. The hostilities of 1905 and 1918 claimed the lives of thousands of people. The 31st of March is commemorated as the Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis, in memory of those thousands of civilians killed as a result of Armenian offensives in 1918.[1]

Although the Armenian side spares no effort to introduce itself as a victim of discrimination, persecution and injustices carried out during the Soviet period, the reality testifies to the diametrically opposite situation. Thus, over the 70 years of Soviet rule, the territory of Armenia increased from 8,000–10,000 km^2 to 29,800 km^2. As a consequence, in 1920, the western part of the Zangazur region of Azerbaijan was annexed to Armenia, thus cutting off the Nakhchyvan region of Azerbaijan from the rest of the country.

Moreover, the mountainous part of Karabakh was given the status of autonomous oblast in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan in the 1920s. At the same time, the areas in Armenia with a much larger Azerbaijani population, more than half a million, were refused the same status. In the years since, all Azerbaijanis have been forced to leave their homeland in the territory of modern Armenia.

The Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous oblast of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan enjoyed a wide range of rights and privileges. In terms of economic development, the region was second, behind only the capital city of Baku. Overall, it edged out Azerbaijan and Armenia in almost all categories, including in the number of hospital beds, physicians in all specialties, public libraries, schools, preschool

[1] See the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the genocide of Azerbaijanis, issued on 26 March 1998 (A/53/94-S/1998/309).

facilities and other social infrastructure. The Armenian language was widely used in public life and in the work of local authorities. The State Pedagogical Institute has functioned in Khankandi with more than 2,000 students, mostly Armenians.

While expressing his worry about the alleged decline of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh during the Soviet period and introducing it as a consequence of the "Baku policies", the President of Armenia passed in silence over the fact that the population of Armenia itself is continuously declining. Thus, according to the 2017 report of the National Statistical Service of Armenia, the population of Armenia declined from 3,514,900 in 1992 to 2,986,100 in 2017.[2]

As is seen in the information above, Armenia's actions were never peaceful in the past, nor were they peaceful at the end of 1980s, when Armenia resorted to force and violence in an attempt to realize its groundless and illegal territorial claims. Those actions started with the attacks on the Azerbaijani population both in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and in Armenia itself and culminated in brutal killings of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians, the expulsion of about 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes in both Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the extensive destruction and pillaging of the seized areas.

The Armenian ideologists and extremist organizations have planned and carried out inter-ethnic disturbances in other parts of Azerbaijan as well, which were necessary to them as a means of launching an extensive anti-Azerbaijani campaign for covering up Armenia's unlawful annexationist intentions and violent methods for their achievement. Thus, for example, during the disturbances in the city of Sumgait, which claimed the lives of 26 Armenians and Azerbaijanis, one of their leading figures was a certain Edward Grigorian, an Armenian and resident of the city. The witnesses, including Armenians, identified Grigorian as one of the organizers and perpetrators of the violence. He was sentenced to long-term imprisonment.

At the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992, when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceased to exist and both Armenia and Azerbaijan attained independence and were accorded international recognition, armed hostilities and attacks against populated areas within Azerbaijan intensified and escalated into a full-fledged inter-State war. As a result, a significant part of Azerbaijan's territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the seven adjacent districts (Lachyn, Kalbajar, Zangilan, Gubadly, Jabrayil, parts of Fuzuli and Aghdam) and some exclaves, was occupied by Armenia.

In contradiction to his speech in question, the President of Armenia earlier publicly acknowledged that the war was started by Armenia and that the aim of the war was to fulfil the long-nurtured plan of seizing the territory of Azerbaijan. Moreover, he made it unequivocally clear that during the active military phase of the conflict, it was Armenia that had intentionally ignored the demands of the Security Council for the immediate cessation of all military activities and hostile acts for the purposes of establishing a stable ceasefire. In reality, at the very time when there was a real possibility of halting the bloodshed, saving the lives of thousands of people and investing in development and prosperity, Armenia continued its annexationist policy. Anyone who wishes to be convinced of that may refer to the interview with the incumbent President and then-Minister of Defence of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, conducted by British journalist Thomas de Waal on 15 December 2000.[3]

[2] See, for example, www.fragit.am/index.eng/0/country/view/37763.

[3] Available in Russian from www.carnegieendowment.org/files/DeVaalinterview_r.pdf.

In addition, the following words of Serzh Sargsyan leave no doubt as to the question of the perpetrator of the massacre against the Azerbaijani population in the town of Khojaly:

> Before Khojalu, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We needed to put a stop to all that. And that's what happened. And we should also take into account that among those boys were people who had fled from Baku and Sumgait.[4]

Further, in answer to the question of whether he had any regrets about the deaths of thousands of people, Serzh Sargsyan said, "I have absolutely no regrets, since such upheavals are necessary, even if thousands have to die".

These words from a person holding the highest political post in Armenia speak for themselves and disprove any denial of responsibility for the crimes committed by the Armenian side in Khojaly and elsewhere in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It should be noted in particular that Khojaly was seized when Serzh Sargsyan served as senior commander of the illegal armed groups directly engaged in atrocities in the territory of Azerbaijan.

In his Strasbourg speech, trying to instructively recommend to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights how to act and what language to use in their documents, the President of Armenia neglected to recall the important decisions that both institutions have adopted in connection with the conflict and the commitments arising in that regard. It would be pertinent to fill in this gap.

Thus, in its resolution 1416 (2005) of 25 January 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly noted in particular that "considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces" and that "the military action, and the widespread ethnic hostilities which preceded it, led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing".[5] In its landmark judgment (Merits) of 16 June 2015 in the case of *Chiragov and others v. Armenia*, the European Court of Human Rights effectively put an end to Armenia's persistent denial of its responsibility for the aggression against Azerbaijan and the unlawful occupation of and military presence in my country's territory.[6]

Armenia's allegations about the April 2016 escalation along the front line are yet another attempt to distort the actual situation on the ground and divert attention from the urgent need to address the consequences of its aggression. In reality, what happened then was a direct result and a continuation of Armenia's policy of the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories.

It should be noted in particular that, since the very first day of the conflict, combat operations have been conducted exclusively inside the territory of my country, almost in the middle of Azerbaijan, affecting its civilian population and infrastructure. The same concerns the April 2016 escalation, when, as a result of Armenia's attacks, 34 towns and villages in Azerbaijan were shelled, causing casualties among civilians

---

[4] Thomas de Waal, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War* (New York and London, New York University Press, 2003).

[5] Resolution 1416 (2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, entitled "The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference", 25 January 2005.

[6] *Chiragov and others v. Armenia*, Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, Judgment (Merits) of 16 June 2015, application No. 13216/05.

and servicemen as well as destroying or substantially damaging private and public property, including residences, schools and kindergartens.

The usual speculation on the Armenian side concerning human rights and self-determination also do not withstand criticism.

Suffice it to mention that, unlike Armenia, which has implemented a policy of total ethnic cleansing of both its own territory and the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, my country has preserved its ethnic and cultural diversity to the present day. Multiculturalism and tolerance are long-standing traditions in Azerbaijan that consolidate our multi-ethnic and multicultural society.

The international community has repeatedly expressed its indignation at the undisguised promotion by the leadership of Armenia of the odious ideas of racial superiority, ethnic and religious incompatibility and hatred towards Azerbaijan and other neighbouring nations. The relevant United Nations bodies and other international organizations, including the Council of Europe, have more than once expressed their serious concern about the spirit of intolerance prevailing in Armenia and the discriminatory policies and practices pursued in that country.

Thus, in its most recent concluding observations on the periodic reports of Armenia, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern at: reports of (a) "racist hate speech and discriminatory statements in public discourse", including by public and political figures and in the media, in particular on the Internet, mainly against religious minorities, asylum seekers and refugees; (b) "discrimination in the granting of asylum status based on ethnicity, religion or national origin"; and (c) "the absence of legislation criminalizing racist organizations and participation in such organizations ...".[4]

In its latest report on Armenia, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance noted, in particular, intolerant statements against Azerbaijanis.[5]

The list of such examples is not exhaustive.

Armenia distorts and misinterprets the principle of the people's right to self-determination and, notwithstanding the concept of self-determination adopted in international law, attempts to impose the view that this principle may be applied in the form of unilateral secession for the Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. In reality, such a view has nothing in common with the principle of self-determination set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act) of 1975 and other international documents.

Moreover, it is abundantly clear that claims of self-determination are unsustainable when they are accompanied by egregious violations of international law, including its peremptory norms (*jus cogens*), such as those prohibiting the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

In that connection, actions that Armenia describes as "the exercise of the right to self-determination" have been unequivocally qualified by the Security Council, as well as by other authoritative international organizations, as the unlawful use of force and the commission of other serious crimes. The international community, including the Council and the General Assembly, has consistently reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan. The illegality of the separatist regime established by Armenia in the

[4] See CERD/C/ARM/CO/7-11, paras. 9, 12 and 17.

[5] European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Report on Armenia (fifth monitoring cycle), adopted on 28 June 2016, para. 31.

occupied territory of Azerbaijan has been repeatedly stated at the international level in the most unambiguous manner.[9]

As a country suffering from Armenia's aggression and its consequences, Azerbaijan is the party most interested in the earliest political settlement of the conflict. At the same time, no peaceful settlement of the conflict can be reached which violates the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and is inconsistent with international law. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

The primary objective of the ongoing peace process, which is based on Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), is to ensure the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the exercise by the forcibly displaced population of its inalienable right to return. The achievement of that objective is imperative and can in no way be introduced as a compromise and used as a bargaining chip in the conflict settlement process.

The military occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan does not represent a solution and will never produce an outcome desired by Armenia. Yerevan's irresponsible and provocative policy has no chance of succeeding. Armenia must drop its futile attempts to mislead its own people and the international community, engage constructively in the conflict settlement process and comply with its international obligations.

In the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting in New York in September 2015, stated that there could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. They reaffirmed their commitment to international law and "the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States".[10]

The sooner Armenia withdraws its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the earlier the conflict will be resolved and both countries and their peoples will benefit from the prospects of cooperation and economic development, thus enabling them to implement successfully the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19, 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

---

[9] See, for example, A/72/508-S/2017/836.

[10] General Assembly resolution 70/1, preamble and para. 38.

United Nations A/72/722–S/2018/78

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 February 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 72 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a comment by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 24 January 2018, regarding unlawful actions against citizens of Ukraine who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-01529 (E) 050218

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 24 January 2018, regarding unlawful actions against citizens of Ukraine who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demands that the Russian Federation immediately stop its unlawful actions against citizens of Ukraine who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly protests against the unlawful and inhumane actions of the Russian side against the following citizens of Ukraine, Muslim Aliyev, Emir-Usayin Kuku, Vadym Siruk, Enver Bekirov, Refat Alimov and, Arsen Dzhepparov, who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation following a fabricated criminal case brought against them before the Severnokavkazsky District Military Court.

All lawful petitions filed by the defence during the today's preliminary hearing have been rejected without any legal grounds, which points to the court's unjust and biased attitude.

According to defendants, they have been treated in an inhumane and humiliating manner, diminishing their human dignity, and have experienced repeated beatings, discrimination by nationality and psychological pressure while being transferred from the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation.

The Ukrainian side considers such actions as a deliberate neglect by the Kremlin of its international obligations, in particular those enshrined in the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We urge the aggressor State to put an immediate end to the farcical, unlawful trial of the Ukrainian citizens listed above and to take all necessary and comprehensive measures to restore their rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls on the world community to publicly condemn the occupying country and to compel it to stop committing crimes against the inalienable fundamental human rights of the population living in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

United Nations S/2018/79

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 February 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 31 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 27–31 January 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. **Nebenzia**

18-01701 (E) 060218 080218

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 31 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (27 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported one incident of gunfire in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 31 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,298 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Burj al-Sama in Aleppo Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,339.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime are continuing with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah Governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (28 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire: four in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and three in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported three incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: one in Aleppo, one in Damascus and one in Idlib.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 17 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,315 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, one ceasefire agreement has been signed with Dibah in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,340.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (29 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported eight incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Ladhiqiyah, two in Damascus, two in Homs and one in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported eight incidents of gunfire: four in Damascus Governorate and four in Idlib Governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation: food with a total weight of 2.4 tons was delivered to Mazlum in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate.

In total, 1,741 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,433 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 22 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,337 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,340.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah Governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (30 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire: four in Aleppo Governorate and three in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported three incidents: two in Idlib Governorate and one in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operation over the past 24 hours.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 68 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,405 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,340.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (31 January 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Aleppo, three in Ladhiqiyah and one in Damascus.

The Turkish representative office has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Damascus Governorate and one in Idlib Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations: 2 tons of food and essential items were delivered to the local population of Abu Jurayn in Aleppo Governorate and also to Rabi'ah in Hama Governorate.

In total, 1,743 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,437 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 114 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 69,519 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, two ceasefire agreements have been signed with Rasm Shawkan in Aleppo Governorate and with Safi in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,342.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.